

Customer No. 24498
Attorney Docket No. PF020104
Office Action Date: 5/25/2010

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JUN 07 2010

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) Electrical device for connection to a predetermined network containing at least one watchdog device, where said electrical device comprises:
 - storage means,
 - configuration means for authorizing operation of said electrical device in the presence of said watchdog device,
 - means for identifying at least one watchdog device when the electrical device is connected to any network containing such a watchdog device; and
 - means for automatically disabling the electrical device if the watchdog device identified does not correspond to the watchdog device for which said electrical device was configured or if said network does not contain a watchdog device, wherein the configuration means are suitable for recording a public identifier of the watchdog device for which the electrical device is configured, in the storage means.
2. (Previously presented) Electrical device according to claim 1, wherein the identification means comprise means for interrogating any watchdog device to determine an associated public identifier.
3. (Previously presented) Electrical device according to claim 1, wherein the identification means comprise means for authenticating the watchdog device for which the electrical device was configured.

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4. (Previously presented) Electrical device according to claim 3, wherein the authentication means implement a zero-knowledge challenge/response protocol.
5. (Previously presented) Electrical device according to claim 1, wherein said electrical device is in a state chosen from one of the elements of the assembly comprising a virgin state, a configured state for operating in the presence of at least one watchdog device and a blocked state, the configured state being obtained after activation of the configuration means and the blocked state being obtained after activation of the disabling means.
6. (Previously Presented) Electrical device according to claim 5, wherein said electrical device operates only when said electrical device is in the configured state.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)

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13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) Method for connecting an electrical device to a network containing a watchdog device, comprising:

identifying the presence of the watchdog device when the electrical device is connected to the network;

configuring operation of the electrical device, wherein operation of the electrical device is authorized only in the presence of the watchdog device, and the configuring operation comprises recording, in a storage means of the electrical device, a public identifier of the watchdog device; and

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automatically disabling the electrical device if the watchdog device identified does not correspond to the watchdog device for which said electrical device was configured or if said network does not contain a watchdog device.

20. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 19, wherein the electrical device is in a state selected from among: a virgin state; a state configured to operate in the presence of at least one watchdog device; and a blocked state, and in that the configuring step comprises changing from the virgin to the configured state.

21. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 20, further comprising a step of disabling the electrical device when the electrical device is connected to a watchdog device for which the electrical device was not configured, where the disabling step comprises changing from the configured state to the blocked state.

22. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 19, wherein the identifying step is triggered by one of: a start up of the second device; and a regular or random identification program.

23. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 19, wherein the identifying step comprises authenticating the watchdog device.

24. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 23, wherein the authenticating step comprises using a zero-knowledge challenge/response protocol.

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25. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 19, wherein, the watchdog device comprises means for secure storage of a secret identifier from which a public identifier is generated, and the identifying step comprises a step of interrogating the watchdog device to determine the public identifier of the watchdog device and the authenticating step comprises use of the zero-knowledge challenge/response protocol by the watchdog device to prove that the watchdog device has the secret identifier.

26. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 19, wherein if the identifying step concludes that the network contains the watchdog device for which the second device was configured, but the electrical device is in the blocked state, the electrical device changes state from the blocked state to the configured state.

27. (Previously presented) Electrical device, comprising:

a memory storing identifier data associated with an authorized watchdog device;
a network interface coupling said electrical device to a communications network;

and

a processor coupled to the memory and the network interface, the processor determining whether the authorized watchdog device is connected to the communications network, and authorizing operation of said electrical device if the authorized watchdog device is connected to the communications network, wherein the processor automatically disables the electrical device if the network does not include the authorized watchdog device, or a detected watchdog device does not correspond to the authorized watchdog device.

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28. (Previously presented) Electrical device according to claim 27, wherein the identifier corresponds to a public identifier of the authorized watchdog device.

29. (Previously presented) Electrical device according to claim 27, wherein said electrical device is in a state chosen from one of the elements of the assembly comprising a virgin state, a configured state for operating in the presence of at least one watchdog device and a blocked state, the configured state being obtained after activation of the configuration means and the blocked state being obtained after activation of the disabling means.